



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

Office of the Assistant Secretary

20 OCT 2003

SAF/IEI  
1665 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington DC 20330-1665

The Honorable Duncan L. Hunter  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman

The Air Force intends to carry out an unspecified minor military construction project at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, using Military Construction Appropriations Act funds. This \$1,404,000 project is required to replace the deteriorated Red Chute Bayou Bridge.

The current Red Chute Bayou Bridge was originally constructed in 1951. It was reconstructed in 1969 to support a housing complex on the East Side of Barksdale. The old wooden bridge has deteriorated due to debris collecting on the upstream side during high water. Current repairs will only last two years.

A similar letter has been sent to the Ranking Minority Member of your Committee.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred W. Kuhn", is written over the printed name.

FRED W. KUHN  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force  
(Installations)

Attachment:  
Air Force Report (P-341 Project, Replace Red  
Chute Bayou Bridge, Barksdale AFB, LA)

**Notification  
Of the  
Intention to Proceed with an Unspecified Minor Construction Project**

The Department of the Air Force proposes to authorize the obligation of funds for the following unspecified minor construction project:

INSIDE THE UNITED STATES

<u>Location/Installation</u>	<u>(\$000)</u>	<u>Requirement and Description</u>
Louisiana/Barksdale AFB	1,404	Red Chute Bayou Bridge

This project is to replace the Red Chute Bayou bridge with a new clear-span concrete bridge constructed in accordance with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards. The project includes clearing and filling the area for road alignment and constructing new sections of asphalt concrete road for bridge/roadway junctions. The project also includes relocating all supporting utilities that cross Red Chute Bayou. The current bridge was built in 1951 before housing units were constructed. It was reconstructed in 1969 to serve Capehart and Heritage Heights housing areas (328 units) in addition to the previous requirements. The bridge has deteriorated and recent inspections revealed several structural members to be severely damaged. Evidence indicates lateral separation occurring between the bridge and west approach slab. The narrow timber bent spacing causes a "damming" effect. This build-up inflicts a lateral loading on the bridge structure for which it was not designed. Recent flooding has exacerbated this condition. The situation has deteriorated so much that the bridge has a reduced speed limit and emergency response vehicles, school buses, and moving vans are restricted to single vehicle crossing. In addition to traffic the bridge carries utility lines and communications conduit over Red Chute Bayou. The need for this project is immediate.